

## **Transportation & Environmental Services – 30 January 2002**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Transportation & Environmental Services Committee** held on **30 January 2002** when there were present:

Cllr V H Leach - Chairman

Cllr R F R Adams  
Cllr R S Allen  
Cllr Mrs J M Giles  
Cllr J E Grey  
Cllr D R Helson  
Cllr Mrs J Helson  
Cllr A Hosking

Cllr R A Pearson  
Cllr S P Smith  
Cllr M G Starke  
Cllr Mrs M S Vince  
Cllr Mrs M J Webster  
Cllr D A Weir

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R A Amner, Mrs J E Ford, K A Gibbs, Mrs L Hungate, C C Langlands and P D Stebbing.

### **SUBSTITUTES**

Cllrs T Livings, C R Morgan, P F A Webster and Mrs M A Weir.

### **VISITING MEMBERS**

Cllr R E Vingoe

### **DISTRICT OFFICERS PRESENT**

R Crofts – Corporate Director, Finance and External Services  
A Bugeja – Head of Legal Services  
S J Clarkson -Head of Revenue and Housing Management  
S Scrutton - Head of Planning Services  
G Woolhouse - Head of Housing, Health and Community Care  
J Bourne - Leisure & Contracts Manager  
S Worthington - Committee Administrator

### **COUNTY OFFICERS PRESENT**

N McCullagh – Area Manager, Transportation and Operational Services  
A Dellar – Assistant Engineer, Transportation and Operational Services

### **ESSEX POLICE**

PC T Stubbington - Essex Police Traffic Management Unit

### 11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs J M Giles declared a pecuniary interest in the item on the notice of motion from Councillors P F A Webster and T G Cutmore regarding telecommunications equipment at Wyburns Farm, Rayleigh by virtue of her son working in the mobile phone industry and left the meeting during its consideration.

Councillor D R Helson declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item on a draft community transport partnership agreement by virtue of his membership of the Rayleigh Association of Voluntary Services.

### 12 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2001 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 13 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

The Committee received the schedule relating to decisions.

#### **Rectory Garth, Rayleigh – Proposed Extension to Waiting Restrictions**

County Council Officers confirmed that a list would be available for the next meeting of the new Environment Committee.

#### **Land North of the Market Square, Rochford**

Officers would follow up on feedback from the landowners and would circulate information to Members.

#### **Junction Improvements A129 London Road/Down Hall Road/Creswick Avenue, Rayleigh**

County Council Officers confirmed that work was due to start next week on site.

#### **Rochford Town Centre Enhancement Scheme**

Arriva has indicated that it was unlikely to re-route the 7 and 8 bus services.

Arising from this discussion, it was noted that there were still outstanding issues relating to the Rayleigh Town Centre Forum which should be taken forward by Officers.

#### **Decriminalised Parking Enforcement**

Decriminalised parking enforcement would be on the agenda for the

AEA meeting in April.

### **Review of Locally Determined Programme 2001/2002**

The Corporate Resources Sub-Committee recommended that this Committee should consider whether Chambers of Trade should advise on the Locally Determined Programme.

On a motion carried by Cllr Mrs J Helson and seconded by Cllr Mrs M S Vince it was:-

### **Resolved**

That Chambers of Trade should be included in the consultation process on the Locally Determined Programme. (County Highways)

## **14 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

The Committee received the Minutes of the following Sub-Committees and considered the recommendations contained therein.

### **(1) Environmental Health Sub-Committee – 2 January 2002**

#### **Minute 110 – Stambridge Sewage Treatments Works – Progress Report**

Anglian Water lodged an appeal against the abatement notice in respect of noise nuisance, but this was dismissed in the Magistrate's Court last week. It would be prudent to wait until it is known whether or not Anglian Water appeal to the Crown Court, before sending any correspondence to Ministers. Cllr A Hosking updated the Committee on the liaison meeting he attended in Stambridge that day. Anglian Water have said that they would build a 6 metre barrier in order to comply with the time requirements of the noise abatement notice, unless this Council grants them an extension in order to find a better solution. In debate, Members were cautious of such action, as this problem had been unresolved for some time.

The N-Viro plant was now down to ground level and Anglian Water had advised that it should be completely dismantled within a week.

### **Resolved**

That a letter be sent to the responsible Minister, once all legal avenues have been exhausted, giving details of all the difficulties encountered with respect to the Works, and the lack of co-operation of Anglian Water, and expressing concern that sludge from the Works currently goes to landfill, which is a finite resource. This to be copied to the Members for Parliament for the Rayleigh and Rochford & Southend East constituencies and the Environment Agency. (HHHCC)

### **Consultation on Proposed Re-Structuring of Anglian Water Group Plc (AWG)**

(Note: the Chairman admitted this as an urgent item in view of the need to provide a response to Ofwat by 6 February 2002).

Ofwat has asked this Council to respond by 6 February 2002 on the proposed re-structuring of AWG. A proposed capital re-structuring will result in an increase in Anglian Water's net debt, although Ofwat claims that there will be no risk to customers.

During debate Members expressed concern about proposals to outsource all Anglian Water's operations over time to third party contractors.

#### **Resolved**

That Officers make an appropriate response to Ofwat.  
(HHHCC/CD(F&ES)).

### **Minute 111 – Essex Biodiversity Partnership Report – Funding Request**

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That a contribution of £2,000 be made to the Essex Biodiversity Partnership towards the implementation of their action plan in 2002/03, subject to Essex County Council agreeing to support the Partnership project for the next five years and that a report be made on progress at the end of the next financial year.
- (2) That a letter be sent to the Essex Biodiversity Partnership confirming the investment, with the expectation of an appreciable return.
- (3) That the Essex Biodiversity Partnership be invited to give a presentation to Full Council. (CD(F&ES))

### **(2) Planning Policy Sub-Committee – 3 January 2002**

#### **Minute 127 – Rochford District Replacement Local Plan Draft Policies**

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the policies, as revised and set out in the Appendix attached to these Minutes, be approved for inclusion in the replacement Rochford District Local Plan first deposit draft.

- (2) That Officers give consideration to framing a policy which recognises a need for ecological value to be placed on land before any development or preparation for development takes place. This to provide for a mechanism so that, when developers are considering an area of high ecological value, an impact study is undertaken. (HPS)

### **(3) Transportation Sub-Committee – 9 January 2002**

#### **Minute 188 – Disabled Parking in Off-Street Car Parks**

In response to a Member query with respect to whether high street disabled parking bays could be designated for wheelchair users only, County Council Officers confirmed that they would investigate the issue and advise Members of the outcome in writing.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That there be new signage for the disabled parking bays in Boots Lagoon designating the bays for wheelchair users only.
- (2) That a letter be sent to the Disabled Person's Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC) in support of extending the vehicle excise duty exemption disc to the over 65s, and copied to the Members of Parliament for Rayleigh and Rochford & Southend East constituencies.
- (3) That free parking in pay and display car parks be restricted to severely disabled persons displaying vehicle excise duty exemption discs only.
- (4) That the changes be advertised in the car parks and an initial period of grace is exercised by the issuing of warning notices to drivers. (HRHM)

#### **Minute 189 – 'Bar-N-Bus' Vehicle at Websters Way Car Park, Rayleigh**

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the contents of this report be noted.
- (2) That Officers continue to consult with John Ward and the Police to monitor the effectiveness of this initiative and report back to this Sub-Committee in 6 months' time.

- (3) That a letter be sent to the 'Bar-N-Bus' Trust suggesting that the success in Websters Way might be built on by extending the initiative to another evening and to other parts of the District.  
(HRHM)

### **15 SERVICETEAM UPDATE**

The Committee received the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) appending a report by the Serviceteam Regional Manager relating to the refuse and street cleansing contracts.

The Committee welcomed to the meeting Mr G Such, Regional Manager, and Mr D Beckham, Contract Operations Manager from Serviceteam.

Mr Such addressed issues raised by Members at the Environmental Health Sub-Committee with respect to the refuse and street cleansing contracts.

#### **Refuse Collection Schedule Changes**

There had been many problems associated with the distribution of leaflets notifying residents of changes to refuse collection days. These have now been rectified and the new schedule appeared to be working well.

Serviceteam proposed, in future, to use bright, waterproof stickers on wheelie bins to notify residents of any changes in refuse collection arrangements.

#### **Refuse Vehicles at Peak Times**

Serviceteam were investigating ways of moving refuse collections earlier and later in the day to avoid problems on the roads during peak times.

Serviceteam was also examining scheduling in order to address the problem of recycling and domestic refuse vehicles meeting in the same road.

#### **Maintenance of Plumberow Mount, Hockley**

A new schedule for grass cutting would be put in place soon for the new season.

#### **Slip in Performance and Attitude by Serviceteam Operatives**

Serviceteam have been developing an NVQ on customer care to be rolled out to all frontline staff. Currently, all complaints are monitored and dealt with by disciplinary procedures.

### **Monitoring of Serviceteam Performance**

Serviceteam run a self monitoring system. The company was, in addition, externally assessed by BSI last October. This assessment highlighted 4 non-conformities, which have subsequently been addressed.

### **Rubbish Bins Left Lying Flat on Pavements**

Operatives are fined if bins are not left upright. Empty bins are often overturned by the wind, or by youngsters.

### **Accumulation of Litter in Public Areas**

Serviceteam were compiling a list of litter generation 'hot spots' in order that a team be assigned to address such areas. It would be useful for Members to contact them with information about any such problem areas for inclusion on the list.

### **Recycling**

Material for recycling goes to Rainham and the majority of this is shipped out of the country for processing, then returned. At present this country does not have adequate processing plants; the situation will, however, improve in future.

### **Serviceteam Vehicles Parking on Green Verges**

Finding suitable parking places for Serviceteam vehicles was difficult. It would be helpful if Members were to contact Serviceteam with details of any sites considered inappropriate for Serviceteam vehicles to park.

### **Rayleigh Town Centre**

Litter picking in Rayleigh Town Centre was currently being monitored.

In conclusion, Mr Such proposed that it might be useful to hold a forum every six months, to be attended by Serviceteam, Officers and Members, in order to discuss issues relating to the contracts.

During the subsequent Member debate, the following issues were noted:-

- Complaints have been received from residents about vehicles queuing on the B1013 road in Hockley and Sutton Road in Rochford as a result of refuse vehicles.
- Refuse vehicles were observed driving up onto the pavement on both sides of Oakfield Road in Hockley.

- Residents reported Serviceteam operatives not emptying bins up the hill at Plumberow Mount. Repairs have not been made to the gates to the play area and bark by the play equipment was not being replaced regularly.
- Broken glass was left for three days in Fairview car park, and ignored by Serviceteam grounds maintenance operatives.
- The standard of road cleansing in Rayleigh High Street was low.
- Litter clearance from industrial sites was the responsibility of owners. In cases where litter blows onto main roads from such sites the owners are encouraged to put out more bins.
- There have been instances of operatives using bad language and laughing at residents who put their bins out too late for emptying.
- In Thornton Road, Rayleigh there have been instances of recycling bins not being emptied if not full and of spillages caused by operatives not being cleared.
- Mechanical sweepers do not appear to operate on Saturdays in Rayleigh High Street.
- Grass cutting in Copford Avenue, Rayleigh has been of an unacceptable standard.

In addressing a Member enquiry relating to Serviceteam response times to resident complaints, Mr Such confirmed that any reports of broken glass would be dealt with immediately; missed bins would be investigated within 24 hours; a crew would be sent out immediately in response to complaints about improperly cut grass.

Mr Such confirmed that it was likely that a tipped over bin, with rubbish strewn, would not be cleared by operatives. If there were a few such cases a crew would be sent out to address the problem.

Mr Such confirmed that Serviceteam fluorescent jackets have Serviceteam printed in orange on the front. This was not highly visible. It was hoped that plans for Serviceteam to appear on the back of these jackets in large black print would be approved by the company.

In response to Member concern about the disposal of white goods, Mr Such stated that on average 60 white goods items were collected each week, but that there was likely to be an increase. It was possible that collections would need to be increased from one per week to two or three. Long-term the company was searching for a site in this country for recycling white goods.



### Resolved

- (1) That the Committee receives this report.
- (2) That this Committee supports the forum initiative. (CD(F&ES))

### **16 NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLORS P F A WEBSTER AND T G CUTMORE**

The following motion was referred by Council on 18 December 2001 to this Committee.

“Council regrets that the Chairman of the Planning Services Committee did not allow the application regarding the siting and appearance of telecommunication equipment at Wyburns Farm, Daws Heath Road, Rayleigh to be considered and decided at Planning Services Committee on November 22.

Council agrees that the present policy of delegation for approval of planning applications should be reconsidered by the Planning Policy Sub-Committee and a report made through the Finance and General Purposes Committee to the next meeting of Full Council.”

The Chairman of the Planning Services Committee and the Head of Planning Services had attended a public meeting which addressed the issue of telecommunications equipment.

During Member debate there was agreement that the Council's scheme of delegation should undergo general scrutiny.

On a motion called by Cllr Mrs J Helson and seconded by Cllr A Hosking, it was:-

### Resolved

That a report reviewing this Council's scheme of delegation to provide for a mechanism which facilitates appropriate debate should be considered by the Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny Committee. (CD(LPA))

### **17 HIGH STREET AND HOCKLEY ROAD, RAYLEIGH – PROPOSED CHANGES TO EXISTING TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS**

The Committee received the report of the Area Manager, Transportation & Operational Services, Essex County Council, asking Members to consider the revised proposals for Traffic Regulation Orders in High Street and Hockley Road, Rayleigh, following the decision made at Council, Minute No. 430.

During Member debate it was noted that there was concern that the proposed unloading area at Boots Lagoon, Rayleigh be abandoned in favour of a feeder lane for taxis. There was also support for a part-time evening taxi stand opposite the Pink Toothbrush in Rayleigh.

Officers would discuss with taxi companies the issue of taxis parking in undesignated parking bays during the daytime.

Concern was also raised that rear access loading bays for High Street businesses were not being sufficiently utilised, although it was recognised that occasionally unloading needed to be done at the front of the stores.

Subject to County Council Officers verifying the legalities of limiting use of the disabled parking bays in Boots Lagoon to wheelchair users, investigating the possibility of an evening taxi rank in Rayleigh and advertising proposals for a taxi feeder lane on the west side of Boots Lagoon, it was:-

### **Resolved**

That the revised proposals set out in the Appendices to this report be agreed, subject to the final proposal on page 13.3 of the report being amended to read as follows:-

Proposed prohibition of vehicles (with exemptions for licensed taxis, wheelchair users, motorcycles and pedal cycles). (County Highways)

## **18 SALTING OF ROADS WITHIN THE DISTRICT**

(Note: the Chairman admitted this issue as an urgent item of business in view of Member concern).

In response to Member concern about certain roads within the District not being salted during bad weather conditions, County Council Officers stated that it was policy that only major roads and bus routes would be salted. However, Love Lane, Rayleigh had been added to the salting schedule. Roads were salted not as a precautionary measure, but in response to prolonged icy conditions. Policy was reviewed annually; the next review would take place in the summer.

County Council Officers would forward copies of the winter maintenance service leaflet to Members and a summary of possible improvements with respect to salting for inclusion in the Members' Bulletin.

### **19 UPLANDS PARK ROAD, RAYLEIGH – PROPOSED EXTENSION TO EXISTING WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND NO STOPPING ON EXISTING SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR MARKING**

The Committee considered the report of the Area Manager, Transportation & Operational Services, Essex County Council, asking Members to consider an objection to the advertised proposal to extend the existing no waiting at any time restriction, and impose a No Stopping Order on the existing School Keep Clear marking in Uplands Park Road.

#### **Resolved**

That, notwithstanding the objections which have been received to the proposed extension to existing waiting restrictions and no stopping on existing School Keep Clear markings, the proposals in Uplands Park Road should be implemented. (County Highways)

### **20 DRAFT COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue & Housing Management asking Members to consider a Draft Community Transport Partnership Agreement with Essex County Council which will provide a funding stream for the new Taxi Voucher Scheme and see the development of Community Transport in the District.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That, in principle, Rochford District Council enters a Community Transport Partnership Agreement with Essex County Council.
- (2) That the Head of Revenue & Housing Management be authorised to sign the Agreement under delegation.
- (3) That the suggested target levels for 2002/03 for Taxi Vouchers be:-

Membership	75
Journeys	4,000 (HRHM)

### **21 ROCHFORD TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT FURTHER ISSUES – TAXI RANK AND HORSE TROUGH**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking Members' agreement to an alteration to the provision of taxi parking in the Market Square and to arrangements for the return of the horse trough.

During Member debate concern was expressed that these proposals had not been discussed by the Rochford Town Centre Working Group.

There was also disquiet about the loss of public parking spaces in Market Square as a result of the proposals, although it was recognised that wheelchair accessible taxis could not discharge passengers directly onto the carriageway.

During discussion of siting proposals for the horse trough and replica pump Members concurred that it was important that they be a focal point for the square. It was the general consensus of the Committee that the correct location was the central traffic island.

Members agreed that the bench should be removed from the island to allow room for the trough and replica pump. Members also confirmed that the costs of moving and re-siting the trough and pump to this location would be met by the Rochford Parish Council.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the layout of the Enhancement Scheme be modified by changing car parking spaces 15 and 16 into a taxi rank and that the 3 taxi spaces proposed in Back Lane be retained as fee paying spaces.

On a motion called by Cllr Mrs M S Vince and seconded by Cllr D A Weir, it was further:-

### **Resolved**

- (2) That the Rochford Town horse trough be moved from Hockley Woods to the central reservation in Market Square next to a replica town pump subject to any costs associated with siting in this position being met by Rochford Parish Council. (HPS)

## **22 SOUTHEND CIVIC AMENITY SITE**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) updating Members of the current situation regarding the Civic Amenity Site in Stock Road, Southend.

A meeting was arranged for 12 February 2002. It has been agreed that the Chairman of this Committee and Group Leaders or their nominees should attend from this Council. It has been confirmed that Southend on Sea Borough Council's Cabinet would attend, but no attendance confirmation has yet been received from the County Council.

Members were pleased that a meeting was now in place, although disappointed that Southend Borough Council were widening the agenda to include other items of business.

Officers would pursue information requested by Members last October on the following issues:-

- What difference was there in the amount of waste going to landfill between 1 April – 31 August 2001 compared to the same period in 2000
- What amount has been paid to Rochford District residents in refunds compared to the amount of tickets bought at the Stock Road site
- How much waste goes to the Castle Point site and outside the District
- Has there been an increase in fly tipping since the charging scheme was introduced by Southend Borough Council.

### **Resolved**

That Members note the progress now being made towards a joint Member meeting. (CD(F&ES))

The Meeting closed at 10.35 pm

Chairman

Date